Perkins

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Thurs Am, 22 Jan 59

Dear Joshua –

An unforseen development requires quick action if anything is to be done. Pat St. Lawrence received a call from Michael Lerner yesterday, offering her an Assistant Professorship in the Genetics Department at Berkeley, where she has been "on loan" from my lab during the Fall, teaching a course in Physiological Genetics. They are pressing her for a prompt answer, in the next few days.

She is torn between attractions of the University there and a job with status, and the desire to stay here, at Stanford, which she feels will be superior for research and for genetics in years to come, and where her work could continue without interruption.

I am anxious to keep her, as is Charley. She is an excellent person in the lab, and has played a valuable role with graduate students, ~~both~~ via example, personal help, and seminars.

How to counter the Berkeley offer with inducements for her to stay here? Money is not an important factor, but I think academic status may be. Here in Biology, there is no prospect of a faculty post for another geneticist, nor is there any provision yet for research appointments with faculty status, though Victor thinks this may ultimately be worked out.

Is there any possibility that a titular appointment in your Department might turn the trick, or that you would consider such a thing desirable? In suggesting this, I visualize no commitment on your part for her financial support, which could continue to be paid from research funds here, either in my name or her own (except perhaps to the extent that she might participate in instruction). I also visualize her continuing research with me here in Jordan Hall.

I'm sorry to confront you with this during your busy first days, and I wouldn't do so if I didn't think her decision to be an important one for people here. Do you think of other steps we might take? I'd appreciate your urging her to stay, regardless of whether anything tangible can be done.

Hastily, David